



WISCONSIN PRISON RELEASES: 2000-2019

The releases numbers presented below are physical releases from Wisconsin adult prisons or contracted facilities from 2000 to 2019. The release counts exclude individuals who were never physically admitted to and released from a WI DOC prison or contract facility if they were determined at the time of sentencing to have already served sufficient time while being held in a county jail. Releases from temporary holds are also excluded.

Prison releases have followed approximately the same trend as admissions, increasing from 8,325 releases in 2000 to 10,486 releases in 2008, and then decreasing again to 9,341 releases in 2019. In 2019, an average of 774 persons were released from our care per month.

Highlights:

Gender. Males have consistently made up the majority (between 89% and 93%) of prison releases across all release years, but the number of females released increased considerably between 2010 and 2019 (from 727 to 1,001).

Race. Since 2000, the percentage of Black persons released from our care has steadily decreased while the percentage of White persons released from our care has steadily increased. In 2019, 56.6% of individuals released were White and 36.4% were Black.

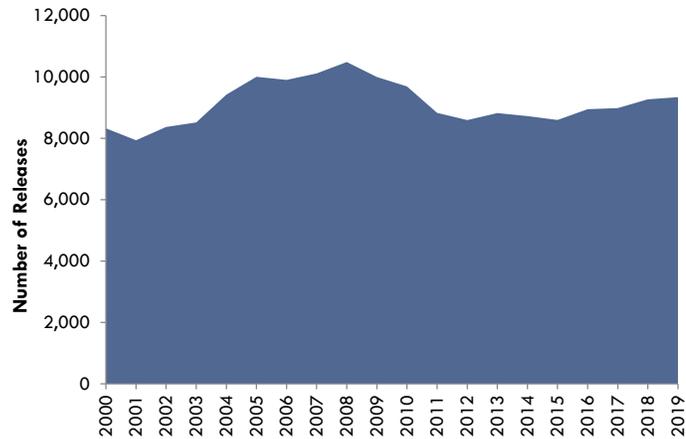
Age. Persons released from our care between the ages of 20 and 39 made up 65.1% of releases in 2019. However, the percentage of releases for those aged 50 or older more than tripled between 2000 and 2019, increasing from 4.1% to 15.6% of releases.

Release Type. In 2019, 83.5% of persons in our care were released on Extended Supervision or Mandatory Release (ES/MR), while only 2.9% were released to Parole. The implementation of Truth in Sentencing in 1999 led to a decrease in releases to Parole and an increase in releases to ES/MR.

County. The largest proportion of individuals in our care (29.0%) was released to Milwaukee County in 2019, followed by Racine County (5.5%), Brown County (5.1%), Dane County (5.1%), and Kenosha County (4.3%).

Time Served. The majority of those released from our care between 2000 and 2019 served less than two years in prison. Of the 2019 releases, 37.3% served less than one year and 10.0% served five or more years. The average number of years served increased by 37.3% between 2000 and 2019, from 1.9 to 2.5 years.

Time Served by Most Serious Offense. On average, between 2000 and 2019 (for New Sentence Only admissions), the majority of persons released from our care who had violent offenses as their most serious offense served two or more years. The majority of those with property, drug, or public order offenses as their most serious offense served less than two years.



For more details, see the full Prison Releases report on the WI DOC website: [Prison Releases: 2000-2019](#)

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